# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
## for 10 March 2006

**Daily Highlights**

- WISH TV reports that investigators in Johnson County, Indiana, say thieves have stolen copper from a utility substation two times in the last three days; such thefts are not isolated –– the price of scrap metal is skyrocketing and so are attempts to steal it.  (See item 5)

- MSNBC reports banks say criminals have stolen bank account data from a third–party company and then used the data to steal money from related accounts using counterfeit cards at ATM machines, possibly stealing PIN codes from a retailer.  (See item 10)

- The Orlando Sentinel reports truckers who haul food and farm products have formed an avian–flu task force to prepare for a possible pandemic that could cripple deliveries nationwide.  (See item 13)

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### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** **Energy**; **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials**; **Defense Industrial Base**

**Service Industries:** **Banking and Finance**; **Transportation and Border Security**; **Postal and Shipping**

**Sustenance and Health:** **Agriculture**; **Food**; **Water**; **Public Health**

**Federal and State:** **Government**; **Emergency Services**

**IT and Cyber:** **Information Technology and Telecommunications**; **Internet Alert Dashboard**

**Other:** **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons**; **General**; **DHS Daily Report Contact Information**

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# Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

**1.** *March 09, Associated Press* — **Boy who climbed into substation badly burned.** A 10–year–old boy who climbed into an electrical substation through a hole in a fence was shocked by a 69,000–volt transformer and suffered third–degree burns over 80 percent of his body, fire officials said. Larez Alexander was in critical condition Wednesday, March 8, at

Akron Children's Hospital. Customers up to a mile and a half away briefly lost electricity after Tuesday's explosion, which set the boy's clothes ablaze and blew off at least one of his shoes, fire department Battalion Chief John Whitlatch said. Two of the boy's brothers were outside the American Electric Power substation at the time, Whitlatch said. It was unclear why he climbed onto the transformer. Columbus−based AEP was investigating, spokesperson Shelly DiMattio said. All AEP substations are surrounded by fences topped with barbed wire, and locked and secured, she said.
Source: http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/1141896905231690.xml&coll=2

2. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Mexico's only nuclear plant shuts reactor.** Mexico's only nuclear power plant was forced to shut one of its two reactors Wednesday, March 8 because of a damaged electric cable, officials said. Ranulfo Marquez Hernandez, deputy state secretary of civil protection, called the incident "minor but unusual." Marquez would not say what damaged the cable but said it forced plant operators to shut down the reactor until the cable could be replaced later Wednesday. The incident was the second to affect the federally owned plant, located about 50 miles northwest of Veracruz, in recent months. In late 2005, a small fire broke out on the roof of a building housing one of the two reactors.
Source: http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,,−5672575,00.h tml

3. *March 09, Rutland Herald (VT)* — **Yankee holds power increase to five percent while it studies noise.** Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant will hold its power increase to five percent for the foreseeable future as its owners analyze a potentially harmful high−frequency noise coming from one of the plant's steam lines. Entergy Nuclear is concerned about the potential for damage to a component called the steam dryer, which removes moisture from the highly pressurized steam before it is piped to the electrical turbines. The dryer has been a source of significant problems at four Midwest reactors that are similar in design to Vermont Yankee and underwent similar power increases. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved the 20 percent power boost for Vermont Yankee last week. But the NRC made the approval dependent upon a detailed testing protocol as the reactor increases power. On Saturday, March 4, after the plant started the higher flow of water in the reactor speeding up the nuclear reaction, plant technicians detected a noise coming from a monitor on one of the plant's main steam lines. Jay Thayer of Entergy said the acoustic problem wasn't completely unexpected. Thayer said data collected from dozens of small sensors on the steam lines at the reactor had been sent to General Electric for analysis.
Source: http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060309/NEWS/603090376/1003

4. *March 08, San Diego Daily Transcript (CA)* — **San Diego Gas & Electric begins construction on power loop.** San Diego Gas & Electric reported Wednesday, March 8, it began construction of the west leg of a 52−mile transmission project that will create a loop around the San Diego region designed to provide more reliability and access to a proposed power plant in the Otay Mesa area. The Otay Metro Powerloop will connect the cities of San Diego, National City, Chula Vista, Santee, and unincorporated areas of San Diego County. Approximately 10 miles of the new line will be underground, with the remaining portion placed on new or existing poles within SDG&E's utility corridor. "SDG&E adds about 20,000 new customers a year, and electricity use by our current customers is growing as well...We need to

strengthen our transmission highways to ensure that our customers have the energy they need, both now and in the future," said James P. Avery, senior vice president, electric, SDG&E. It is anticipated the entire project will take 18 months to complete. Once the powerloop is operational, SDG&E said customers are expected to see enhanced ability to route power through San Diego County.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/sddt/20060308/lo_sddt/sdgebeginscons tructiononsandiegopowerloop

5. *March 07, WISH TV Channel 8 (IN)* — **Copper thieves lead police on high−speed chase.** Investigators in Johnson County, IN, say thieves have stolen copper from a utility substation two times in the last three days. The incidents are part of a larger problem. Twice over the weekend, big spools of copper wiring disappeared from a Cinergy substation. Both incidents sparked police chases. "It was large spools of copper wire and they weighed 350 to 400 pounds a piece," said Det. Bill Pfifer, Johnson County Sheriff's Department. Police have arrested three suspects in the attempted thefts. They're still looking for two others. The attempted thefts are far from isolated. The price of scrap metal is skyrocketing and so are attempts to steal it. One of the factors in the high demand for scrap metal is the building boom in China. Thieves are getting an increasing amount of money when they sell the scrap metal they steal. A spokesperson for Cinergy says the utility has been seeing an increase in this kind of theft. Cinergy is working with law enforcement to increase security.
Source: http://www.wishtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4599135&nav=0Ra7

6. *March 07, Associated Press* — **Chevron seeks to expand refinery, boost output by half million barrels by 2010.** Chevron Corp. said Tuesday, March 7, that its oil and natural gas production would rise by some 600,000 barrels per day by 2010 −− below some analysts' expectations −− and announced plans for a possible major expansion of a Mississippi refinery that was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Chevron, the country's second−largest petroleum producer, said that new projects coming on line over the next five years would boost daily output from 2.5 million barrels per day of oil equivalent in 2005 to 3.1 million barrels per day by 2010. By 2008, daily output would be about 2.9 million barrels per day. Part of that expansion was pegged to its $18 billion acquisition of Unocal Corp. The company also forecast that its reserves of oil and gas would rise from roughly 12 billion barrels in 2005 to close to 14 billion barrels by 2008 −− an estimated reserve replacement rate of almost 120 percent annually. Chevron pinned its growth on large projects in the Caspian and West African and Asia−Pacific regions, with lower growth coming from the Asia−Pacific, North America, and Latin America.
Source: http://www.nwherald.com/BusinessSection/309050987913591.php

[Return to top]

# Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *March 09, Arizona Daily Star* — **Propane tanker crashes in Arizona; prompts resident evacuation, highway closure.** Officials evacuated residents of a rural area west of Bisbee, AZ, and shut down Arizona−80 Wednesday, March 8, after a tanker hauling 9,300 pounds of propane went off the highway and down an 80−foot embankment, catching fire. Because of the terrain and the danger of explosion presented by the propane tank, firefighters from the Bisbee

and Fry fire departments, and a Hazmat team, could not get close enough to extinguish the fire. The Cochise County Sheriff's Department attempted to evacuate residents on a five−mile stretch of Arizona−80 between the Bisbee tunnel and the intersection with Arizona−90.
Source: http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/119259

[Return to top]

# Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 08, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−06−366R: Defense Logistics: More Efficient Use of Active RFID Tags Could Potentially Avoid Millions in Unnecessary Purchases (Correspondence).** For many years, the Department of Defense (DoD) has been attempting to improve visibility over its inventory and equipment. The lack of visibility over inventory and equipment shipments increases vulnerability to undetected loss or theft and substantially heightens the risk that millions of dollars will be spent unnecessarily. In order to improve visibility, DoD began using a technology to enable it to track shipments. This technology is known as radio frequency identification (RFID). RFID technology consists of active or passive electronic tags that are attached to equipment and supplies that are shipped from one location to another. This report focuses on active RFID tags, which cost around $100 each and are reusable. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is recommending that DoD revise its RFID policy and operational guidance to require that active tags be returned for reuse and to develop procedures to track and monitor use of RFID tags. In commenting on a draft of this report, DoD concurred with GAO's first recommendation and partially concurred with their second recommendation. DoD stated that it will issue additional guidance on tag reuse by July 2006. DoD's comments and GAO's evaluation are discussed in detail at the end of this report.
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−06−366R

9. *March 07, Forecast International (CT)* — **Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence forecast spending heading for a slow−down.** A worldwide Command, Control, Communications, Computers & Intelligence Forecast (C4I) market correction and gradual decline can be expected to occur in a few years as many of the programs that were accelerated to combat terrorism and operations in Afghanistan and Iraq draw to an end. According to Forecast International's 2006 C4I Market Overview, the market will continue to show strong growth through 2008, but will then begin to shift back to its pre−9/11 levels in 2009.
Source: http://www.forecastinternational.com/abstract.cfm?recno=1232 77

[Return to top]

# Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 09, MSNBC* — **Wave of ATM fraud indicates criminals have upped the ante.** With consumers around the country reporting mysterious fraudulent account withdrawals, and multiple banks announcing problems with stolen account information, it appears thieves have unleashed a powerful new way to steal money from cash machines. Criminals have stolen bank

account data from a third–party company, several banks have said, and then used the data to steal money from related accounts using counterfeit cards at ATM machines. The central question surrounding the new wave of crime is this: How did the thieves managed to foil the PIN code system designed to fend off such crimes? Investigators are considering the possibility that criminals have stolen PIN codes from a retailer, MSNBC has learned. The incident calls into question the security of the four–digit code that for years has made PIN–based transactions less subject to fraud than signature–based credit card transactions. "This is the absolute worst hack that has happened, the biggest scam to date," said Gartner analyst Avivah Litan. In recent weeks, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Washington Mutual, and Citibank have all reissued debit cards after detecting fraudulent activity. Smaller banks, such as Ohio–based National City Bank, have taken similar steps. The Secret Service is investigating the incidents, said spokesperson Eric Zahren.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11731365/from/ET/

11. *March 08, Komo 4 News (WA)* — **Thieves steal computers with personal information at Washington insurance company.** Someone broke into a local insurance company and stole several computers containing clients' names, addresses and social security numbers. Paul Jones with the Mike Strathy Insurance Company in Shoreline, WA, said she is not sure when the break–in happened, but when she and other staffers arrived at work Monday morning, March 6, they saw the glass panel in the front door has been smashed open. When they walked inside they realized what had happened. The computers contained thousands of names, addresses, and social security numbers. It isn't just clients at risk; the computers also contain the information of all the people who have ever contacted Mike Strathy Insurance for a quote.
Source: http://komonews.com/news/story.asp?ID=42288

12. *March 07, Discovery Channel* — **Photos as passwords foil hackers.** A password that uses images instead of numbers could give some people access to secure information on personal electronic devices or at ATMs within the next year. The image authentication system uses a pair of digital images instead of a string of numbers to make logging in simple for the legitimate user, but difficult for impersonators. According to Masakatsu Nishigaki, a professor of informatics at Shizuoka University in Japan, people often use four–digit number passwords or easy–to–remember passwords to access information on cell phones, PDAs, Websites, and financial accounts at ATMs. What's more, they often use the same password to gain access to several different location and rarely do they change the secret string of numbers. Nishigaki proposes a system that uses one clear and easily recognizable image and another that is a highly pixilated, unclear version of the original. When creating a new password or changing an old one, the system provides the legitimate user with the clear image. But during the authentication phase, the system shows the user the unclear image, along with a number of decoy images. To the user who holds the clear version, the unclear image is easy to pick out. But to an impersonator, finding the correct image becomes difficult.
Source: http://dsc.discovery.com/news/briefs/20060306/password_tec.h tml

[Return to top]


# Transportation and Border Security Sector


13.

*March 09, Orlando Sentinel (FL)* — **Threat of avian flu prompts trucking organization to create task force.** Truckers who haul food and farm products have formed an avian–flu task force to prepare for a possible pandemic that could cripple deliveries nationwide. "We just felt it was time to get ready. These are serious threats," Fletcher Hall, executive director of the American Trucking Association's Agricultural Food Transporters Conference, said Tuesday, March 7. Hall said the conference's more than 500 trucking–company members, including big outfits in Florida, must be prepared for any eventuality if deadly bird flu becomes widely transmissible among humans. Trucks and truckers will be vital not only to the delivery of flu vaccines and other medicines, Hall said, but to food for families, restaurants and schools, as well as building materials for the construction industry. Trucks, which roam the nation's highways day and night, could be a vector of transmission for flu as well, he said, and that needs to be addressed.
Source: http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl–birdflutruck0806
mar08,0,994723.story?coll=orl–business–headlines

14. *March 09, Reuters* — **JetBlue may defer jet deliveries.** JetBlue Airways would consider deferring deliveries of some aircraft or issuing new equity as it seeks to keep its debt under control, its chief executive said on Wednesday, March 8. The low–cost airline lost money in the fourth quarter, breaking a profit streak extending to its 2002 IPO. It has been grappling with higher fuel prices than it planned for. "We're going to look at (slowing deliveries) very seriously as we look at our routes and where the capability is and where the substantial profitability (is)," David Neeleman, the airline's founder said. He said the airline, which is forecasting a full–year loss, would also consider selling new shares as it seeks to keep its debt at no more than 75 percent of its total capital. If the New York–based airline did delay deliveries of aircraft it has on order from Airbus or Embraer, it would be a significant retreat from the aggressive growth strategy the airline has pursued so far. Neeleman said that given strong demand from airlines elsewhere for both of JetBlue's mainstay planes, the Airbus A320 and the smaller Embraer E–190, it would be easy to defer the planned deliveries.
Source: http://news.airwise.com/story/view/1141894635.html

15. *March 09, San Francisco Chronicle* — **San Francisco BART passengers evacuated after fire.** A fire on the Muni level of the Embarcadero station Thursday morning, March 9, halted BART and Muni metro trains in both directions and forced authorities to evacuate passengers. Black smoke could be seen pouring for several minutes from the stairways of the Embarcadero and Montgomery Street stations. Two people were being treated at the scene for minor smoke inhalation, said San Francisco Fire Department spokesperson Capt. Pete Howes. Several ambulances were standing by at the scene, and Fire Department personnel had laid out stretchers. Howes said he did not know exactly where in the station the fire had started and did not know the cause.
Source: http://sfgate.com/cgi–bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/03/09/MNG2 9HLABU3.DTL

16. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Arizona governor orders troops to border.** Governor Janet Napolitano on Wednesday, March 8, ordered more National Guardsmen posted at the Mexican border to help stop illegal immigrants and curb related crimes. National Guard troops have worked at the border since 1988, but Napolitano signed an order authorizing commanders to station an unspecified number of additional soldiers there to help federal agents. Once the funding is approved, the troops will monitor crossing points, assist with cargo inspection and

operate surveillance cameras, according to the order. "They are not there to militarize the border," the governor said. About 170 National Guardsmen are already posted at the nation's busiest illegal entry point, where they assist with communications, fence construction, and anti−drug efforts. The governor declared an immigration emergency last summer in Arizona's four border counties.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2006/03/08/AR2006030801509.html

[Return to top]

# Postal and Shipping Sector

**17.** *March 09, DMNews* — **UPS plans jet upgrade.** UPS will retrofit much of its jet fleet with a computerized display system that will improve overall safety, reduce fuel use and make the pilot's job easier, the carrier said on Wednesday, March 8. The retrofit program is thought to be the first of its type attempted by any airline, cargo or passenger, "and basically reflects our belief that this technology is ready and should be applied to jets now in service," said Bob Lekites, vice president, UPS Airline and International Operations.
Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi−bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=3600 2

**18.** *March 09, DMNews* — **FedEx updates online shipping tools.** FedEx simplified shipping options for small and midsize businesses with improvements to its online system, the carrier said on Wednesday, March 8. FedEx Global Trade Manager is a free online resource that gives customers access to customs documents and information on trade regulations for more than 200 countries, letting customers seek import and export requirements for each country based on shipment and commodity information. The improvements to FedEx Ship Manager let customers automatically receive tracking updates if a problem occurs with delivery. Customers can process 25 multiple−piece shipments at one time, up from 10. The tool also lets customers check the status of a package online, store up to 2,000 names and addresses, prepare shipping labels for repeat shipments and arrange for courier pickup in several countries.
Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi−bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=3599 9

[Return to top]

# Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

# Food Sector

**19.** *March 09, Reuters* — **House votes to override state food−label laws.** The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill on Wednesday, March 8, to create uniform food labels nationwide. Under the bill, states would need U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for labeling requirements, whether new or already in effect, that differ from federal standards. Currently states can adopt warnings or label rules that exceed federal standards.

Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=health
News&storyID=2006−03−09T005058Z_01_N08518398_RTRIDST_0_HEALT
H−FOOD−LABELS−DC.XML

[Return to top]

# Water Sector

20. *March 09, Durango Herald (CO)* — **Water district will try cloud seeding for Lower Basin states.** Agencies in three states that rely on Colorado River water have hired the Southwestern Water Conservation District to coordinate a water producing and water conservation program. Southwestern board members in a telephone conference Wednesday, March 8, approved a contract with the Six Agency Committee −− a coalition of irrigation and metropolitan water districts in California −− the Central Arizona Water Conservation District and the Southern Nevada Water Conservation District. Under the agreement, the three Lower Basin groups would pay $15,000 each for cloud seeding and yet undetermined conservations efforts.
Source: http://durangoherald.com/asp−bin/article_generation.asp?arti
cle_type=news&article_path=/news/06/news060309_6.htm

21. *March 09, Orlando Sentinel (FL)* — **Outage leads to boil−water alert.** About 1,500 homes in Port Orange, FL, were under a boil−water alert Wednesday, March 8, after a power outage at its water−treatment plant. While plant operators made the repairs quickly, Volusia County Utilities Operations Manager Tom May said the precautionary measure was put into place because the momentary drop in the water pressure could have allowed bacteria to seep into the lines.
Source: http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/volusia/orl−vbrief
s09_406mar09,0,3027571.story?coll=orl−news−headlines−volusia

[Return to top]

# Public Health Sector

22. *March 09, Agence France−Presse* — **Eleven suspected human bird flu cases in Azerbaijan.** Eleven suspected human cases of the highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu virus, three of them fatal, are under investigation in Azerbaijan, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed. Maria Cheng, WHO spokesperson, said that the suspected victims, including eight members of a single family, all came from the same village near the Azerbaijani capital Baku. "It is possible that they caught H5N1, because we already know that poultry were hit by the virus in neighboring areas," said Cheng. Flocks belonging to the patients had also been infected, but experts had yet to identify by what, she added. Samples from the suspected human victims were being sent to a WHO−accredited laboratory.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060309/hl_afp/healthfluazerbai
janwho_060309163427;_ylt=AuacNkIg4Mg.peR4D7.v1DGJOrgF;_ylu=X
3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNlYwN5bmNhdA−−

23. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Bird flu found in mammal in Germany.** The H5N1 bird flu virus has been found in a weasel−like mammal called a stone marten, a German laboratory said

Thursday, March 9, indicating the disease has spread to another animal species. The Friedrich−Loeffler Institute confirmed the presence of the virus in the marten. The animal was found sick and apparently dying on the island of Ruegen in northern Germany on March 2. The H5N1 strain of bird flu was found in a cat on the same island last month, the first time the virus has been identified in an animal other than a bird in central Europe. Infected cats have since been found in Austria.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/03/09/ap/world/mainD8G81_VB8D.shtml

24. *March 08, Agence France−Presse* — **Malaysia declares hand, foot and mouth epidemic in Sarawak.** Malaysia declared that an outbreak of hand, foot−and−mouth disease in the eastern state of Sarawak has escalated into an epidemic with some 200 cases being reported daily. The disease, which affects infants and young children, has so far killed four youngsters in Sarawak on Borneo Island. State health officials have recorded a total of 3,087 cases since January 1. The disease causes fever, rashes, and painful blisters in the mouth and on the hands and feet. All kindergartens in the state have been shut down to prevent the spread of the disease.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060308/hl_afp/malaysiahhealthd isease_060308172615;_ylt=Any6X3vjKUsxNaCfBQHjMWOJOrgF;_ylu=X 3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNlYwN5bmNhdA−−

25. *March 08, Government Health IT* — **Health IT panel to study electronic health records use in disasters.** The American Health Information Community, the panel of government and private−sector executives seeking to accelerate deployment of electronic health records (EHR), received a new task Tuesday, March 7: using health information technology to improve the nation's responses to a disaster. Mike Leavitt, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, told the commissioners he wants them to develop recommendations on how EHR can be used in a disaster that leaves many people without their medical records and prescriptions for medication. The community has been working on four areas in which Leavitt is hoping for short−term gains: biosurveillance technologies to provide early warning of epidemics and other health emergencies; consumer empowerment, including personal health records; use of IT in caring for people with chronic diseases; and EHR.
Source: http://govhealthit.com/article92525−03−08−06−Web

[Return to top]


# Government Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]


# Emergency Services Sector

26. *March 08, Des Moines Register (IA)* — **Iowa House declines to hire disability coordinator.** The Iowa House said no Tuesday, March 7, to hiring a coordinator to improve access for disabled people at the Iowa Capitol. The decision comes despite problems highlighted after a fire alarm at the Statehouse in January in which the temporarily wheelchair−ridden Rep. Mark Kuhn (D−IA), who is recovering from a farm accident, had to be physically carried outside.

Officials later admitted they had not properly installed safety devices purchased and delivered more than two years earlier to evacuate people with disabilities from the 150−year−old Capitol during an emergency.
Source: http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2006 0308/NEWS10/603080355/1011

27. *March 08, Sun Herald (MS)* — **Station manager sees media as first responders.** On Tuesday, March 7, WLOX−TV Station Manager Dave Vincent told a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) independent panel: "Broadcasters must be recognized as first responders in subsequent disasters or communication is going to come to a standstill and the public will be harmed because they did not receive vital information." He continued, "I hope if anything comes out of these hearings it is that the FCC and other federal agencies will designate broadcasters as first responders." Vincent also noted that should a communications system for civil defense be developed, media should be allowed access as a way of keeping the public informed.
Source: http://www.sunherald.com/mld/thesunherald/news/special_packa ges/renewal/long_beach/14044409.htm

28. *March 08, Bangor Daily News (ME)* — **Maine task force investigation of state's security underway.** A legislative group studying Maine's security has come up with many ways to better prepare the state for an emergency. Most of their suggestions don't carry large price tags, making it easier for lawmakers to adopt them. A key suggestion is to make more radio frequencies available for emergency communications between all levels of government. A second task is to ensure that different communication systems work together. The group also calls for changes that would make disaster money more readily available and for better coordination between the Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Maine Centers for Disease Control. In its remaining meetings, the task force will focus on the Maine National Guard's ability to respond to local emergencies.
Source: http://www.bangornews.com/news/templates/?a=130216

[Return to top]

# Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

29. *March 09, Security Focus* — **Sun Solaris Proc Filesystem Pagedata Subsystem local denial−of−service vulnerability.** A security vulnerability involving the "Pagedata" Subsystem of the Process File System (/proc(4)) may cause the system to hang or panic. Analysis: A local unprivileged user may be able to cause significant performance degradation, hang the system, or panic the system, resulting in a denial−of−service condition. This is due to a security vulnerability involving the Pagedata Subsystem of the process file system "/proc." Vulnerable: Sun Solaris 10.0 _x86; Sun Solaris 10.0; Sun Solaris 9.0 _x86; Sun Solaris 9.0; Sun Solaris 8.0 _x86; Sun Solaris 8.0.
Solution: Sun has released an advisory including fixes to address this issue. For more information: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16966/solution
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16966/references

**30.** *March 08, Information Week* — **Security researchers terminate sites selling Trojans.** Several Websites selling made−to−order Trojan horses to hackers have been shut down, thanks to the cooperation between U.S.−based RSA Security and Spain's Panda Software. The two companies collaborated in the effort to identify, locate, and shutter five sites: three were marketing la carte Trojans and two were sites where the buyers could monitor the infections the malware caused.
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articl eID=181502074

**31.** *March 08, Information Week* — **Hack−My−Mac challenge leaves system shipshape.** Dave Schroeder, a University of Wisconsin systems engineer who said a Swedish Hack−My−Mac contest was too easy, closed down his own challenge Tuesday, March 7. The machine ran Mac OS X 10.4.5 with the latest security updates and had two local accounts. In addition, Schroeder left both SHH and HTTP open. The mini garnered attention and lots of traffic, said Schroeder, who logged 4,000 attempts. The machine weathered two denial−of−service attacks, various Web exploit scripts, SSH dictionary attacks, and untold probes by scanning tools, he added.
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml?ar ticleID=181502078

**32.** *March 08, IDG News Service* — **House panel approves bill banning sale of phone records.** A U.S. House of Representatives committee on Wednesday, March 8, approved a bill that would make it illegal for online companies to sell phone records they obtained by posing as account holders. An amended bill approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee bans the sale, lease or rental of telephone records, directs the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to strengthen security requirements for carriers to protect customer phone records, and toughens the FCC penalties for violations of customer privacy laws.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/privacy /story/0,10801,109341,00.html?SKC=security−109341

**33.** *March 08, Government Computer News* — **Internet "cloaking" emerges as new Web security threat.** Terrorist organizations and other national enemies have launched bogus Websites that mask their covert information or provide misleading information to users they identify as federal employees or agents, according to Lance Cottrell, founder and chief scientist at Anonymizer of San Diego, CA. The criminal and terrorist organizations also increasingly are blocking all traffic from North America or from Internet Protocol addresses that point back to users who rely on the English language, Cottrell told an educational seminar in Washington at the FOSE 2006 trade show's Homeland Security Center Tuesday, March 7. Among the risks of the terrorist cloaking practice are that the organizations can provide bogus passwords to covert meetings. By doing so they can pinpoint federal intelligence agents who attend the meetings, making them vulnerable to being kidnapped or becoming the unwitting carriers of false information, Cottrell said.
Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/40075−1.html

**34.** *March 08, SC Magazine (UK)* — **Wave of tax spam strikes.** Tax time is a time of year when Internet users see higher volumes of spam e−mails in their inboxes. Viruses and instant messenger attacks both decreased during February, according to message security firm Postini. But spam and encryption volumes rose during the month. Postini said it processed over 22 billion e−mails last month; Postini blocked 14 billion of them, and found that spam comprised four billion of that number, an increase of two percent since January.

Source: http://www.scmagazine.com/uk/news/article/545562/wave−tax−sp am−strikes/

35. *March 06, eWeek* — **"Hacker Defender" rootkit author halts development.** The author of the Hacker Defender rootkit said he's taking a break from developing the popular hacking tool, but that he may soon return to developing new rootkit programs. The author, who uses the name "Holy Father," posted a message on the Hacker Defender Website calling a truce with security companies that make anti−rootkit technology. However, in an e−mail exchange with eWEEK, "Holy Father" said he isn't throwing in the towel, and that he may return to rootkit development after taking a break from Hacker Defender to work on other projects. Hacker Defender is one of the best−known rootkit programs. Rootkits have been common in computer hacking circles for years, and allow attackers to maintain access to a computer, without being detected, long after they have compromised its defenses. Hacker Defender was initially released as an open−source program in 2004. More recently, "Holy Father" has sold updated copies of the rootkit, dubbed "Golden Hacker Defender." That version of the program had an anti−detection engine designed to thwart anti−rootkit technology.
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1934708,00.asp

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US−CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US−CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US−CERT is aware of publicly available exploit code for a vulnerability in Apple Safari Browser. The Apple Safari browser will automatically open "safe" file types, such as pictures, movies, and archive files. A system may be compromised if a user accesses an HTML document that references a specially crafted archive file. Successful exploitation may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the user.

More information can be found in the following US−CERT Vulnerability Note:

VU#999708 – Apple Safari may automatically execute arbitrary shell commands
http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/999708

Although there is limited information on how to fully defend against this exploit, US−CERT recommends the following mitigation:

Disable the option "Open 'safe' files after downloading," as specified in the Securing Your Web Browser
http://www.us−cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/#sgener al

### Current Port Attacks

| Top 10 Target Ports | |
|---|---|

| | 1026 (win−rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft−ds), 15901 (−−−), 32459 (−−−), 139 (netbios−ssn), 41170 (−−−), 21838 (−−−), 42011 (−−−) |
|---|---|
| | Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center |

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

[Return to top]

# Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

# General Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]